UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

V.

Criminal Action
No. 13-10200-GAO

DZHOKHAR A. TSARNAEV, also
known as Jahar Tsarni,

Defendant.

BEFORE THE HONORABLE GEORGE A. O'TOOLE, JR. UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

STATUS CONFERENCE

John J. Moakley United States Courthouse
Courtroom No. 9
One Courthouse Way
Boston, Massachusetts 02210
Wednesday, June 18, 2014
10:01 a.m.

Marcia G. Patrisso, RMR, CRR
Official Court Reporter
John J. Moakley U.S. Courthouse
One Courthouse Way, Room 3510
Boston, Massachusetts 02210
(617) 737-8728

Mechanical Steno - Computer-Aided Transcript

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     APPEARANCES:
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          OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
          By: William D. Weinreb, Aloke Chakravarty and
 3
              Nadine Pellegrini, Assistant U.S. Attorneys
          John Joseph Moakley Federal Courthouse
          Suite 9200
 4
          Boston, Massachusetts 02210
 5
          On Behalf of the Government
 6
          FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE
          By: Miriam Conrad, Esq.
 7
              Timothy G. Watkins, Esq.
          51 Sleeper Street
 8
          Fifth Floor
          Boston, Massachusetts 02210
 9
          - and -
          CLARKE & RICE, APC
10
          By: Judy Clarke, Esq.
          1010 Second Avenue
          Suite 1800
11
          San Diego, California 92101
12
          - and -
          LAW OFFICE OF DAVID I. BRUCK
13
          By: David I. Bruck, Esq.
          220 Sydney Lewis Hall
14
          Lexington, Virginia 24450
          On Behalf of the Defendant
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1 PROCEEDINGS THE CLERK: All rise. 2 3 (The Court enters the courtroom at 10:01 a.m.) THE CLERK: The United States District Court for the 4 5 District of Massachusetts. Court is in session. Be seated. 6 For a status conference in the case of United States 7 versus Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, Docket 13-10200. Will counsel identify yourselves for the record, please. 8 MR. WEINREB: Good afternoon, your Honor. William 9 Weinreb for the United States. 10 11 MR. CHAKRAVARTY: As well as Aloke Chakravarty, your 12 Honor. 13 MS. PELLEGRINI: Nadine Pellegrini, your Honor. 14 MS. CLARKE: Judy Clarke, Miriam Conrad, David Bruck 15 and Timothy Watkins on behalf of Mr. Tsarnaev, whose presence has been waived. 16 THE COURT: Good morning. 17 18 Thank you for your status report. There are a number 19 of items to be addressed. I have my list. I think we'll start 20 with old business, and that relates to the defense objections to the arrangements at Devens for family visits under the SAMs. 21 22 I don't know -- well, I guess I need to be brought up to date 23 as to what controversy there continues to exist or not. Mr. Bruck? 24 25 MR. BRUCK: If it please the Court, the only

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outstanding matter is our request that legal visits with a
member of the defense team and the defendant's sisters be
treated as legal visits, which is to say confidential.
explored that last time.
         The government made a proposal to have a fire-walled
person present in the room. We object to that and think that
the inclination expressed by the Court, although there was no
final ruling, is the way it should go, that these simply are
legal visits with cleared members of the defense team.
has been no showing of any security reason whatsoever why those
visits can't be private. They need to be in order for their
purpose to be accomplished. And we would ask that the Court so
rule.
         That's the only outstanding matter.
         THE COURT: How many such visits have there been since
our last conference?
         MR. BRUCK: Since our last one, I think one.
         MS. CONRAD: Two.
         MR. BRUCK: I'm sorry. Two. Excuse me.
         And there have been problems. I mean, it has
not -- we have not been able to accomplish the work that -- as
we think it needs to be accomplished under these conditions.
         THE COURT: Well, is it just a matter of
inconvenience?
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MR. BRUCK: No, it's a matter of having an FBI agent

sitting and taking notes and listening to everything that's said.

THE COURT: He's not there when you're there without the sisters?

MR. BRUCK: He is not there when we're there without the sisters. That's correct. And if the sisters had a purely social visit where there was no member of the defense team and no defense work going on, that would be a different matter. But those have not been the conditions. And we need the sisters to work with us and our client on legal matters, and to confer in a protected confidential setting. And that's why we made the motion. We think these are legal visits and we think they should be treated like any other legal visit.

THE COURT: Ms. Pellegrini?

MS. PELLEGRINI: Your Honor, as the government suggested in its proposal, we agreed that we would wall off and have essentially a taint agent. In the interim since the government filed that proposal, there has also been discussions between the defense and the government regarding a potential agreement where there would be a further walling off, if you will; that is, that the agent would only communicate with an assistant United States attorney who is not part of the prosecution team. And there would only be discussions with the prosecution team if by a preponderance of the evidence the taint agent and the taint AUSA felt that there would be a

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     violation of the SAMs. Other than that, we received no
     information.
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              The government believes that that suffices for both
     the concerns on the defense and for the government. As the
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     government reiterated again in its proposal, we do have
     concerns about what we call a mixed social and legal visit,
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     which has previously not been recognized by BOP and which is
     not recognized under the SAMs, and so we've taken steps to
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     address those concerns by walling off both the agent and the
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     government.
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              THE COURT: Okay. I think the government's proposal
     as amended is satisfactory. And so you will put that
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     into -- including the addition of a fire-walled AUSA --
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              MS. PELLEGRINI: AUSA.
              THE COURT: -- from another district?
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              MS. PELLEGRINI: We hadn't discussed where that person
     would come from. That's possible, your Honor. We could do
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     that if the Court so --
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              THE COURT: You could get somebody from New Hampshire
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     or Rhode Island or someplace like that.
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              MS. PELLEGRINI: Certainly.
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              THE COURT: Okay.
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              MR. BRUCK: If I may make one last comment.
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     Obviously, we will do what we can to do our mitigation work and
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     investigation under those conditions, but we can't promise that
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we may not apply to the Court for further relief depending on how it goes.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. BRUCK: Thank you.

THE COURT: The defense also has filed a motion for a hearing regarding public comments and what the defense characterizes as "leaks." I don't know who wants to address that.

Let me just say I saw both interviews in real time when they occurred and I was not very happy about it. I thought they were completely unnecessary opportunities for the communication of information which would be inappropriate from active members of the prosecution team. I recognize the government's position that neither DesLausriers nor Douglas were at the time employed by the government.

I do think that the prosecution has practical, if not legal, control over them. And I expect that the government will remind people involved in the case, even formerly, of their responsibility to the integrity of the trial. I don't know whether either of those people were intended to be -- or are intended to be government witnesses?

MR. WEINREB: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: But if you have not done so, you should communicate to them that it is unwise for them to -- and for anybody else in their position to engage in similar interviews.

With respect to the prospect of having a hearing on the matter, I actually think that would make things worse rather than better, and I think it is better left as it is, with the government reminding everyone on its team, and formerly on its team, of the sensitivity of the matter and the obligations under our local rules to avoid comment on any of the aspects of the case. Yes.

MS. CLARKE: Your Honor, thank you for that admonition. The problem is without the Court actually weighing in -- and I understand the Court's concern about, you know, the hearing and what it would bring out. But to admonish government counsel to admonish people that they've already admonished by way of that document that we attached to our reply I don't think does it.

THE COURT: Well, they've now heard what I've said as well.

MS. CLARKE: Well, and I just wonder if a Court order is the way to go because there's got to be some sense of sanctions that people would face if they are exposed to continue the conduct or to violate the Court's order.

There's been, you know, a high level of rhetoric which will -- the prosecution team has not been able to stop, and I think the Court weighing in would be the next necessary step.

THE COURT: I don't think a formal order would add that much. If something happens that it's similar, with or

without a formal order I can take appropriate action.

MS. CLARKE: I think the sanction power of the Court is important to us.

THE COURT: I understand.

There are two motions related to jury matters. The defense moved for access to the instructions given to the grand jury. I reviewed the papers on that. That motion is denied essentially for the reasons argued by the government.

There is also a defense motion for access to jury selection materials. And that motion will be granted and we will issue an order that slightly amends the draft order that the defense submitted. We have been working with our jury clerk to get the best information that is possible to get off the systems, and he is working -- I checked with him within the hour to see what his progress was. It is a big job, I should say.

He told me that with respect to one of the requests, he spent essentially full time for the last five and a half days going through records to essentially remove personal identifying information. He's mostly done with that, and I expect that we will be able to issue an order and grant access to the materials that we have shortly, I hope within a few days.

Some of the material does not exist as requested, but we'll give you the best -- the clerk will give you the best

information that is available and practical subject, of course, to the privacy concerns with respect to the individual juror identification.

There are several motions to suppress. Let me ask first about the motion to suppress statements. I see from the status report that -- I think it indicated the parties were in agreement that there would need to be an evidentiary hearing. I had thought that the government's position was that it wasn't offering any of the statements so no hearing was necessary.

MR. WEINREB: Your Honor, we have stipulated that we will not offer any of the statements in our case in chief, but we did also state that we would use the statements for impeachment purposes or in rebuttal if the defendant offered statements. And if they were, in fact, involuntary in the constitutional sense, that wouldn't be permitted. So --

THE COURT: Right. I think we can defer on that until the time that that occurs. In other words, if during -- we could have a hearing on suppression during the course of the trial if impeachment or rebuttal appears to be a prospect.

MR. WEINREB: We agree.

THE COURT: Okay. So I think we can pass on that motion for now, it being clear that the government will not offer any of the statements in its case-in-chief.

As to the other motions, I think -- I'm not sure -- the briefing is complete yet. I think there may be

some replies coming. We'll assess that. I'm not sure yet whether a hearing will be necessary. The papers are pretty complete. If there is a hearing necessary, we'll set it up. But it will not -- it will be an argument on the papers, I would think.

MS. CONRAD: Well, your Honor, I'll address this in the reply -- excuse me. But I think there may be some issues that would require an evidentiary hearing, particularly with respect to standing abandonment and any -- the extent to which the search exceeded the scope of the warrant.

THE COURT: All right. Well, that will appear from the papers and that will be part of what I'll consider.

I have reviewed the papers on the defense motion to strike the aggravating factor that relies on a formulation of betrayal of the United States, and I agree with the defense position that it was unduly prejudicial and I will strike that. I do that under the authority of 3593(c), I think, which I read as an analog to Rule 403.

I think to draw a distinction between naturalized and natural born citizens is highly inappropriate. Only the former take an oath, and I think to invite the jury to consider that as a factor would be very inappropriate. And I think that both formulations are finned in that respect, both the original and the proposed. I think the government has — the aggravating factors that are not obnoxious, in that sense, are adequate to

the government's purpose.

So I think the big topic for the morning is scheduling. And we have to talk about a couple of matters:

One is 12.2, notice; one is reciprocal discovery; and one is expert discovery that is not implicated under 12.2. There are two kinds of experts, I guess.

Somewhere -- I guess it was in the government's prior submitted proposed schedule of dates -- the government had suggested that it would make affirmative expert disclosures on June 30th. I don't know whether that still is a date the government expects to meet. I know that the date was suggested some time ago.

MR. WEINREB: Your Honor, we're actually still aiming for that date. We'd like the leeway to be able to slip it perhaps a week, if necessary, but we have the materials. We are actively at work. It's a lot of materials, but we simply need to process them, Bates stamp them, get them ready for the defense and hand them over with respect to the areas of discovery specified in the -- in our proposal, which was ballistics, fingerprint, blood and DNA.

THE COURT: And what did you mean to exclude by that list?

MR. WEINREB: Well, there are potential other experts that would be on, for example, aspects of terrorism or experts that might help the jury understand terms in the note that the

defendant left in the boat; experts relating to the harm that the defendant caused. I don't want to get too specific now because we're still investigating it and still formulating it, but they would be --

THE COURT: This is for the first phase?

MR. WEINREB: -- non-forensic experts.

It would mainly be for the sentencing phase but also potentially for the first phase.

Your Honor, as the Court -- if I can just return for a moment, one of the significances of alleging something is an aggravating factor is that it creates the opportunity for the government to put in evidence on a particular topic. And the Court is obviously mindful of that because it just said that you believe that the other aggravating factors create the room for the admission of such evidence.

I just want to emphasize, though, that the defense has made clear in this case that motive is going to be central to its mitigation phase. The last time we were here Mr. Bruck said why Mr. Tsarnaev committed these crimes is going to be the central issue that they will pursue in mitigation. And our theory is that he committed those crimes, in part, to aid America's enemies, to provide aid and comfort to those who are planning violence against the United States. That was the gist of our reformulated version of the aggravator that attempted to separate out the naturalization piece as much as possible.

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We believe that evidence is still appropriately
admissible under the heading of motive. And motive is an issue
both at the trial and at sentencing. So the experts who we're
discussing could be offered during the trial phase, it could be
offered during the sentencing phase, especially because the
jury is permitted during the sentencing phase, if there is one,
to consider the evidence that was admitted during the trial.
         THE COURT: Well, that, I guess, raises the broader
question which we once visited which is whether we schedule
separately for Phase 1 and Phase 2 with respect to some of
these matters.
         MR. WEINREB: We believe that makes no sense.
         THE COURT: Right. I know you said that. But what
you just said seems to be inconsistent with that. That's what
I -- I know that's the path we took --
         MR. WEINREB: In other words, the government --
         THE COURT: -- at the defense's urging really.
         MR. WEINREB: All expert discovery should be complete
before the trial begins, and it needs to be that way because
there isn't going to be a break between the trial and
sentencing.
         THE COURT: So then when would you propose the
non-technical experts, if it --
         MR. WEINREB: August 4th.
         THE COURT: Which is the same date as is in the --
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MR. WEINREB: Yes. The only thing I was emphasizing before was that the discovery that we're ready to produce now is the forensic expert discovery, essentially. The non-forensic expert discovery is what we propose to delay until August 4th.

MR. CHAKRAVARTY: Just with the clarification that a computer and some other technical experts we might also need some more time for, your Honor, just to do a full, comprehensive analysis. So I'm thinking like linguistics, a geolocation expert, computer forensics to say this is material that was removed from the computer and analyzed. That the exhibits themselves will have been turned over but not the full expert reports, to the extent there is going to be one.

We can obviously disclose the qualifications and the type of testimony, as we would typically do in a 702 type disclosure.

THE COURT: So the real date then is August, I guess, for the interesting experts.

MR. CHAKRAVARTY: Well, just on that point, your Honor, none of that, I submit, is going to be surprising to the defense. As to information on key pieces of digital evidence, for example, on the defendant's computer, neither his location at certain times will be surprising; in fact, some of that material, the data we turned over.

The forensic reports of the analysis of different

substances that may have been found on pieces of evidence, that is information that the defense hasn't had time for, and that is precisely the type of information that we have accelerated to try to get to them by the end of the month, or shortly thereafter, so that they can actually digest -- so that is actually going to be the new -- the non-controversial evidence is going to be the evidence that -- with the exception of a so-called terrorism expert or somebody who is going to interpret the meaning of certain terms, the vast majority of the surprises are going to be, for lack of a better phrase, are going to be produced soon.

THE COURT: And I guess to the defense now. I expect that there will be expert evidence certainly in a Phase 2. Do you anticipate Phase 1 experts?

MS. CLARKE: Yes. And while I'm standing, Judge, I notice noticeably missing from the discussion, anyway, is explosives, materials, handwritings, residue, chemicals, cell tower, GPS. These are the kinds of experts that it appears the government would be selecting from. I can't imagine that we're omitting explosives in this case as an area of expertise.

MR. CHAKRAVARTY: Yeah, that's -- this is not an exhaustive list, your Honor, of the materials that the FBI Quantico lab has done and the state police crime lab has done. To the extent those are complete, those reports, then we intend to turn those over by the end of the month or shortly

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thereafter. We have just received a number of them, and you'll get those promptly. The ones that we don't have include the geolocation, which is the cell tower analysis, and the computer forensics, because those are not done necessarily out of the Quantico lab, your Honor. THE COURT: Yeah, I don't -- I guess when the -- if it proceeds this way, when the production's made in a couple of weeks, you'll know what the first batch is and you'll know what is not there, and that will be the second batch, I guess, on the proposal. So to come back to the question. If the government is proceeding in two steps, perhaps the defense could too, and I wonder if it could be separated by Phase 1 and Phase 2. MS. CLARKE: I think that's what we recommended, essentially, in our proposal, was -- because we're responsive, Judge, to them --THE COURT: Well, not necessarily. MS. CLARKE: In the guilt phase we're largely responsive to them. In the penalty phase we're slightly more affirmative, I think. But our work is not going to be done soon.

THE COURT: I guess that's what I -- I was getting more at affirmative expert disclosure but I see that there may be a difference in the phases that -- because the first phase

the defense is essentially responsive to the government's case.

MR. WEINREB: Your Honor, if I may have permission to interrupt for one moment. I don't think that the two dates that we listed should be mistaken for Phase 1, Phase 2.

THE COURT: I understand that.

MR. WEINREB: Essentially, we have --

THE COURT: You're treating it as together. But what I'm getting at is the defense may have what are called -- what we can call sort of affirmative expert evidence in the penalty phase because it's proposing something, whereas in the guilt phase the defense is resisting something, and that makes those experts a little more responsive than affirmative, that's all. And so it may depend on what the government -- so it may truly be a response to the government's disclosures that we learn what the defense intends for the first phase.

MR. WEINREB: Indeed that's true, your Honor. But to the extent that the defense is going to offer affirmative experts in the penalty phase, we need the same amount of time pretrial to respond to them as they would need to respond to us. That's been our point all along, that this is not the normal kind of case. The defense is going to be putting on affirmative experts in the penalty phase that are every bit as much affirmative as the government typically puts on in the guilt phase. And there's no way to respond to that in the course of the trial. That's why we picked 90 days from the

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     beginning of trial.
              THE COURT: I understand that and I generally agree
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     with it, it's just putting it into the calendar, is really the
     question.
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              All right. So we'll work with that.
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              The other -- not the other, because there are two
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     others. Next is 12.2, the notice and the mechanisms. Now, you
     could separate the date for the notice and its contents from
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     the question of what happens on a subsequent
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     government-sponsored examination, but it seems you've addressed
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     both of them in your papers.
              Let's talk about the contents of the notice. I think
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     the government has asked not just for a general description of
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     the areas of expertise and instruments to be used but actually
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     an identification of experts by name. Is that correct or not?
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              MR. WEINREB: We have asked for that, yes, sir.
              THE COURT: And I guess the question I have for the
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     defense is: What's wrong with disclosing the identity of an
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     expert in addition to his or her field? In other words, how
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     much difference is there between saying "a forensic
     psychiatrist" and "Dr. Smith, a forensic psychiatrist"?
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              MS. CLARKE: Well, I don't -- most courts don't order
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     that.
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              THE COURT: I know, and I wonder why.
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              MS. CLARKE: And for very good reason. Because that's
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     forcing the defense to provide to the prosecution in advance of
     the presentation of that evidence, or a decision even to
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     present that evidence --
              THE COURT: But it's not saying anything about the
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     content; it's just saying who it is.
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              MS. CLARKE: Well, but the government's not entitled
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     to know who our experts are until we're prepared to actually
     put them on. That just doesn't seem to be the procedure that
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     courts have followed. It's requiring more than the rule
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     requires.
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              THE COURT: The rule is silent on it.
              MS. CLARKE: Well, which is notice of the intent to
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     introduce the evidence.
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              THE COURT: Do you have any objection to the -- what
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     was required in the Samson case?
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              MS. CLARKE: I'm sorry?
              THE COURT: Do you have any objection to what Judge
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     Wolf ordered in the Samson case?
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              MS. CLARKE: I don't recall what Judge --
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              THE COURT: That is, the fields and instruments tests
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     to be applied.
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              (Counsel confer off the record.)
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              MS. CLARKE: I don't think we have a problem with --
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     if there's to be a 12.2 notice. And, you know, we're not
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     there. We don't even know. But if there's to be a notice, it
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1 seems fair to say we intend to introduce it. And as to 2 12.2(b)(1) or (2), right? 3 THE COURT: Right. MS. CLARKE: And what the areas to be covered are: 4 Is 5 there psychiatric testimony, is there neuropsychological 6 testimony, you know, that sort of area to give the government 7 some kind of an indication of what their rebuttal case would 8 focus on. 9 THE COURT: With respect to the post-notice 10 proceedings, again, I think it was done in the Samson case, and 11 the government suggests it here, that another firewall team be 12 appointed to address issues about the execution of the 13 examination and anything else that might arise so the 14 prosecutors here aren't involved in those matters. It seems 15 for the benefit of the defense, I guess. So I don't know if --MS. CLARKE: I don't think we're inclined to agree to 16 a firewall or to urge the Court to implement a firewall. 17 rule does not envision that. There is a Fifth Amendment shield 18 19 which a firewall, you know, doesn't necessarily address. And 20 it has proved to be a very cumbersome, potentially dangerous 21 process by communication that goes on anyway between the 22 experts and the prosecution. It's just -- we have not seen it 23 work as effectively as the initial impression was. 24 MR. BRUCK: It's contrary to the rule. 25 MS. CLARKE: It's contrary to Rule 12.2.

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              THE COURT: Why is it contrary?
              MS. CLARKE: Because the rule sets forth the way in
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     which proceedings occur in 12.2.
              THE COURT: It's contrary by omission, I guess is what
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     you're saying?
              MS. CLARKE: Yes.
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              (Counsel confer off the record.)
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              MS. CLARKE: Mr. Bruck is correct. It specifies that
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     the information shall not be disclosed to any lawyer for the
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     government, which a firewall lawyer would be.
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              THE COURT: Right. How would controversies about the
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     manner of examination be -- legal controversy be resolved if
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     the government couldn't have a lawyer?
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              MS. CLARKE: I think the process is this: That the
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     defense provides the notice, the government then seeks an
     examination --
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              THE COURT: Right.
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              MS. CLARKE: -- by its expert. And the Court then
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     will have a hearing on whether that -- what that expert can do.
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     It is a rebuttal right; it is not an affirmative right of the
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     government to go trouping around through the government's head.
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     It's a rebuttal right.
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              So depending on the narrow framing of the defense
     notice, the Court would have to make a decision as to how much
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     testing or what's permitted by the government's expert and
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whether, in fact, an evaluation is even necessary. We're not to that point.

So there will be a decision point for the judge, for you, after we file notice and the government then seeks to have an examination. The government may see our notice and not seek to have an examination. We may not file any notice. We may file a notice and they may seek not to have an examination.

They may seek to have an examination broader than our notice.

But we'll have to have a hearing before this Court on what is permitted.

THE COURT: All right. Well, you're right that the rule contemplates proceeding in steps. And I guess I started by saying it looked like you're collapsing the steps, but I think probably it's prudent to just take the first step and then we'll get the government's motion, which there will be suggested conditions, which you'll object to, and which we'll thrash it out.

And I guess the final category is reciprocal discovery under 16(b)(1)(A) and (B), particularly. (C) we've talked about separately as the expert disclosures. And I guess I have your submissions about that. So we'll issue an order setting some dates.

Yesterday, I guess, the government filed a motion for an order of excludable delay that takes us through today. It's said to be assented to. I assume it is?

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              MS. CLARKE: That's correct.
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              THE COURT: All right. That motion is granted.
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              I guess the next question is we shouldn't leave here
     without a further status date.
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              MS. CLARKE: Your Honor, there were, I think -- unless
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     I just missed it, there are three additional motions on the
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     list.
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              THE COURT: Right. With regard to the -- I'll rule on
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     the papers on those.
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              MS. CLARKE: Okay.
              THE COURT: I think the date we looked at was August
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     14th. I want to keep in touch with you. That's a status date.
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     There may be a hearing date between now and then for one thing
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     or another, or maybe it will be that day. We'll see what gets
     filed.
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              MS. CLARKE: At 10 a.m.?
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              THE COURT: Yes. That's a Thursday, I believe.
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              MR. WEINREB: That's good for the government.
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              THE COURT: Okay. Anything else?
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              MR. WEINREB: I guess we would just ask that the
     defense consent to the exclusion of time between now and the
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     next status hearing date.
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              MS. CLARKE: Yes.
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              THE COURT: I think for the same reasons outlined in
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     the motion just allowed, that's appropriate.
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MR. WEINREB: Yes.
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              MS. CLARKE: Thank you, your Honor.
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              THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.
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              THE CLERK: All rise for the Court.
              (The Court exits the courtroom at 10:36 a.m.)
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              THE CLERK: Court will be in recess.
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              (The proceedings adjourned at 10:36 a.m.)
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CERTIFICATE I, Marcia G. Patrisso, RMR, CRR, Official Reporter of the United States District Court, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript constitutes, to the best of my skill and ability, a true and accurate transcription of my stenotype notes taken in the matter of Criminal Action No. 13-10200-GAO, United States of America v. Dzhokhar A. Tsarnaev. /s/ Marcia G. Patrisso MARCIA G. PATRISSO, RMR, CRR Official Court Reporter Date: 7/18/14